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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			HWANG, JOON H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2162	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/625,666

Applicant(s)

DEGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 43-105 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 43-54 and 57-105 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 55 and 56 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/5/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The pending claims are 43-105.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 43, 45, 47-50, 52-53, 59-81, 83-86, 91-93, and 96-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492).

With respect to claim 43, Mankovitz teaches a record medium for recording a control program that causes an inputting unit (i.e., a receiver) to input information representing time to a researching unit (i.e., a central computer server) (lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches transmitting the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches

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inputting the time information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time information representing the predetermined time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 45, Mankovitz teaches a record medium for recording a control program that causes an inputting unit (i.e., a receiver) having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal and that inputs information representing time to a searching unit (i.e., a central computer server) (lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches transmitting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches inputting the information representing time to the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time

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thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 47, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches a connecting portion for directly connecting the count value stored in the storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9, lines 16-17 in col. 18, and fig. 10). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in the storing means to the external unit through the connecting portion (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9, lines 16-17 in col. 18, and fig. 10). Mankovitz teaches the information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 48, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 49, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 50, Mankovitz teaches junction means having a base having an attaching portion for attaching the connecting portion, the attaching portion being disposed on an upper surface of the base (fig. 10) and connecting means, protruding from the attaching portion, for connecting the external unit (fig. 10). Mankovitz teaches the communicating means transmits the count value through the junction means (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9, lines 16-17 in col. 18, and fig. 10).

With respect to claim 52, Mankovitz teaches the external unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 53, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches displaying means for displaying the count value stored in the storing means (line 66 in col. 9 thru line 2 in col. 10 and lines 16-40 in col. 13). Mankovitz teaches

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communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in the storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 59, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 60, Mankovitz teaches the communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 61, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 62, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information

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representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in the storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored in the storing means (lines 42-56 in col. 19). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 63, Mankovitz teaches the sound generating means generates a sound corresponding to the predetermined operation when the count value stored in the storing means exceeds a predetermined value (lines 42-56 in col. 19).

With respect to claim 64, Mankovitz teaches the sound generating means generates a sound when the count value stored in the storing means exceeds a predetermined value and the predetermined operation is performed (lines 17-41 in col. 32).

With respect to claim 65, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 66, Mankovitz teaches the communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 67, Mankovitz teaches information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 68, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches first storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches identification information generating means for generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation (i.e., station information, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 45 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches second storing means for storing the identification information generated by the identification information generating means (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, lines 56-67 in col. 10, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for transmitting the count value and the identification information stored in the first storing means and the second storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time and identification information

identifying contents are input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 69, Mankovitz teaches the first storing means and the second storing means store the count value and the identification information to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit (i.e., different data can be stored in a same storage device, line 64 in col. 14 thru line 4 in col. 15 and lines 54-67 in col. 10).

With respect to claim 70, Mankovitz teaches the first storing means and the second storing means store the count value and the identification information to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit (i.e., different data can be stored in separate storage devices, line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14 and lines 54-67 in col. 10).

With respect to claim 71, Mankovitz teaches pressing means composed of at least one button (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches the identification information generating means detects the pressing manner of the user against the button and generates the identification information that varies corresponding to the pressing manner (lines 51-57 in col. 9, lines 23-32 in col. 10, and fig. 6B).

With respect to claim 72, Mankovitz teaches displaying means for displaying the count value stored in the first storing means (lines 16-40 in col. 13). Mankovitz teaches

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the displaying means displays the count value in a different manner that varies corresponding to the identification information (lines 16-40 in col. 13).

With respect to claim 73, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 74, Mankovitz teaches the communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 75, Mankovitz teaches the identification information identifying the contents is information that identifies whether the contents are television broadcast contents or radio broadcast contents (fig. 6B).

With respect to claim 76, Mankovitz teaches the identification information identifying the contents is information that identifies whether the contents were broadcast in a predetermined area or out of the predetermined area (line 49 in col. 28 thru line 27 in col. 29).

With respect to claim 77, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 78, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches first storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time

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corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored in the first storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 56-67 in col. 10). Mankovitz teaches second storing means for storing data transmitted from an external unit through the communicating means (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 79, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 80, Mankovitz teaches the data stored in the second storing means is the contents or information thereabout (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14).

With respect to claim 81, Mankovitz teaches the data stored in the second storing means is compression-encoded audio data (lines 7-14 in col. 14). Mankovitz teaches audio data reproducing means for decoding the compression-encoded audio data and reproducing the decoded audio data (fig. 8).

With respect to claim 83, Mankovitz teaches the first storing means and the second storing means store the count value and the data to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit (line 64 in col. 14 thru line 4 in col. 15).

With respect to claim 84, Mankovitz teaches the first storing means and the second storing means store the count value and the data to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14 and lines 56-67 in col. 10).

With respect to claim 85, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 86, Mankovitz teaches communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 91, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches first storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for communicating with an external unit and transmitting the time information stored in the first storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz

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teaches second storing means for storing data transmitted from the external unit through the communicating means (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 92, Mankovitz teaches the data stored in the second storing means is the contents or information thereabout (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14).

With respect to claim 93, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 96, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches directly connecting the count value stored at the storing step to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9, lines 16-17 in col. 18, and fig. 10). Mankovitz teaches transmitting the count value stored at the storing step to the external unit connected at the connecting step (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9, lines 16-17

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in col. 18, and fig. 10). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 97, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 98, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches displaying the count value stored at the storing step (lines 16-40 in col. 13). Mankovitz teaches communicating the count value stored at the storing step to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e.,

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storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 99, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 100, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches transmitting the count value stored at the storing step to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored at the storing step (lines 42-56 in col. 19).

Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 101, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 102, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation (i.e., station information, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 45 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches storing the identification information generated at the identification information generating step (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, lines 56-67 in col. 10, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches transmitting the count value and the identification information stored at the first storing step and the second storing step to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 103, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 104, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored at the first storing step to the external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 56-67 in col. 10). Mankovitz teaches storing the data transmitted from the external unit at the communicating step (line 64 in col. 13 thru line 6 in col. 14). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 105, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 44, 46, and 87-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Payne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,518).

With respect to claim 44, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step. However, Payne teaches displaying a number of data entries stored in a memory (lines 45-59 in col. 6 and fig. 6) in order to provide more visual feedback to a user. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Payne, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Payne to the system of Mankovitz in order to provide more visual feedback to a user.

With respect to claim 46, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step. However, Payne teaches displaying a number of data entries stored in a memory (lines 45-59 in col. 6 and fig. 6) in order to provide more visual feedback to a user. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Payne, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in

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the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Payne to the system of Mankovitz in order to provide more visual feedback to a user.

With respect to claim 87, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for transmitting the time information stored in the storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16). Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except displaying the number of entries of the time information stored in the storing means. However, Payne teaches displaying a number of data entries stored in a memory (lines 45-59 in col. 6 and fig. 6) in order to provide more visual feedback to a user. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Payne, it would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Payne to the system of Mankovitz in order to provide more visual feedback to a user.

With respect to claim 88, Mankovitz teaches the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents (line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 89, Mankovitz teaches the communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (line 63 in col. 15 thru line 4 in col. 16).

With respect to claim 90, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

6. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,171,136).

With respect to claim 51, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except a lid. However, Liu teaches a junction means having a lid integrally formed with a main body of a unit (lines 3-21 in col. 7 and fig. 8) in order to securely cover the junction means. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Liu, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Liu to the system of Mankovitz in order to securely cover the junction means.

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7. Claims 54 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Zitzewitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,033,365).

With respect to claims 54 and 57, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except representing the count value with geometric shapes members. However, Zitzewitz teaches a count value is represented with geometric shapes (circle, triangle, and rectangle) members on one side of a displaying means (fig. 3 and line 66 in col. 4 thru line 32 in col. 5) in order to provide more visual feedback to a user. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Zitzewitz, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Zitzewitz to the system of Mankovitz in order to provide more visual feedback to a user.

8. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Barker (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,800).

With respect to claim 58, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except representing the count value as the size of an area of the displaying means. However, Barker teaches data (the count value) is represented as the size of an area of the displaying means (fig. 1 and lines 40-51 in col. 2) in order to indicate a status of a memory capacity. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Barker, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to utilize the teaching of Barker to the system of Mankovitz in order to indicate a status of a memory capacity.

9. Claim 82 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Klonowski (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,514).

With respect to claim 82, Mankovitz discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except encrypting and decrypting data. However, Klonowski teaches encrypting data corresponding to a predetermined encrypting method and decrypting the encrypted data (abstract and lines 23-67 in col. 2) in order to protect privacy of the data. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Klonowski, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Klonowski to the system of Mankovitz in order to protect privacy of the data.

10. Claims 94-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) in view of Proctor et al. (U.S. Patent No. Re. 32,451).

With respect to claim 94, Mankovitz teaches an inputting unit for inputting information representing time (i.e., a receiver, lines 31-57 in col. 3 and line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal (i.e., a clock, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 11 in col. 8). Mankovitz teaches storing means for storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time

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corresponding to user's operation (i.e., storing SDT (station, day, and time) information representing predetermined time by pressing a button of the receiver, line 35 in col. 7 thru line 3 in col. 8, lines 25-53 in col. 8, and lines 36-45 in col. 11). Mankovitz teaches communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in the storing means to an external unit (i.e., a central station) (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9). Mankovitz teaches information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof (i.e., storage storing organized auxiliary information in the central station, line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9 and lines 12-26 in col. 16). Mankovitz discloses a beeper (lines 17-41 in col. 32). Mankovitz does not explicitly disclose generating a predetermined sound when the count value is stored to the storing means corresponding to user's operation. However, Proctor teaches generating a predetermined sound when data (a count value) is stored to a memory (the storing means) corresponding to user's operation (lines 40-43 in col. 4) in order to indicate a receipt of a user's operation. Therefore, based on Mankovitz in view of Proctor, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Proctor to the system of Mankovitz in order to indicate a receipt of a user's operation.

With respect to claim 95, Mankovitz teaches the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (line 54 in col. 8 thru line 35 in col. 9).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 55 and 56 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 55 identifies a distinct feature, "when the count value is transmitted by said communicating means, the number of spherical members gradually decreases on one side of said displaying means, and wherein when part of the spherical members disappears, the other spherical members move to the positions at which the spherical members disappear". The closest prior art, Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) disclosing storing a time information in a memory based on a user's operation and displaying the time information, fails to suggest the claimed limitation as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements.

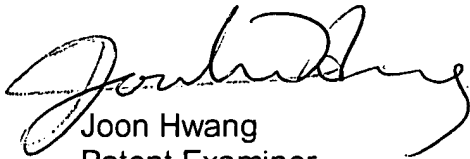
Claim 56 identifies a distinct feature, "wherein said displaying means is formed in an almost square shape, and wherein members representing the count value are arranged in a lattice shape irrespective of the storing order of entries of the information representing time stored in said storing means." The closest prior art, Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,492) disclosing storing a time information in a memory based on a user's operation and displaying the time information, fails to suggest the claimed limitation as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E. BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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9/30/05